

Middle Class Task Force will craft legislation to address middle class priorities such as college affordability, elder care and health care ***Middle Class Task Force will craft legislation to address middle class priorities such as college affordability, elder care and health care***

Washington, DC – Monday, Democratic Caucus Chairman John Larson (D – Connecticut) and Rep. Steve Israel (D – New York) announced the launch of the Democratic Middle Class Task Force for the 111th Congress.

The Democratic Middle Class Task Force was founded by Rep. Israel in the 110th Congress. Last fall, the group introduced a “Middle Class Success Agenda” that included 13 bills to address middle class economic issues. For the 111th Congress, the Democratic Middle Class Task Force plans to continue its work on middle class economic issues, with particular attention to how the economic crisis is affecting middle class families.

“America’s middle class will be the engine of growth that rebuilds our economy. The Middle Class Task Force will develop important solutions to lessen ‘the middle class squeeze’ that in this tough economy has impacted so many families who have faced losing their jobs, their homes and their healthcare. Representative Israel and the Task Force will provide strong leadership as we moves to address these critical issues,” said Rep. Larson.

“If you’re in the middle class in America, you’re probably feeling like you’re too rich too qualify for federal help, but too poor to feel comfortable paying for your bills, taxes, healthcare and college costs,” said Rep. Israel. “As the chairman of the Democratic Middle Class Task Force again this Congress, I’ll be working with our Members and House leadership to introduce legislation aimed at helping middle class families succeed amid a struggling economy.”

“Middle class Americans are currently on the front lines of the worst economic crisis in decades. These families are looking for strong leadership and fresh, practical answers that will rebuild a path to middle class success. The Middle Class Task Force will provide that leadership and those ideas,” said Jon Cowan, President of Third Way, a think tank that studies middle class economic policy.

The Task Force is co-chaired by Reps. Melissa Bean (D-IL), Ciro Rodriguez (D-TX), Tim Ryan (D-OH), Carol Shea-Porter (D-NH), Kathy Castor (D-FL) and Anthony Weiner (D-NY). The Task Force plans to include additional Members for the 111th Congress.